

THE PEOPLE OF THE COMMISSION

*Those Who Guide
Those Who Implement*

The common violet, official flower of the State of New Jersey, is found in abundance, both wild and cultivated, throughout the Delaware River Basin.

THE COMMISSION

The Hundred-Year Compact

It was bold. It was necessary. Following a deadly flood and decades of a water war that culminated in two U.S. Supreme Court decrees, the U.S. Congress and the legislatures of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware took an unprecedented action. They agreed among themselves to a Compact that would govern water management within the Delaware River Basin.

The terms of the Delaware River Basin Compact, adopted in 1961, require interstate cooperation and provide for planning, conservation, use, development, management, and control of the Delaware River Basin's water resources. Unlike any other prior interstate compact, the

Delaware River Basin Compact specifically made the federal government an equal partner with the four signatory states. For at least a century, the initial term of the Compact (renewable in 100-year increments), water resource decisions would be based on a majority vote among the five signatory parties.

The instrument through which the Compact’s terms would be implemented is the Delaware River Basin Commission, which began life on the signing of the Compact in 1961.

Commission members are the governors of the four Basin states and, historically, the U.S. Secretary of the Interior. Each Commissioner traditionally appoints alternate Commissioners who have full voting powers in the principal’s absence.

The Commission meets monthly to address plans, projects, and policies dealing with water supply, pollution control, flood protection, conservation, watershed management, recreation, and, on a rare occasion, hydroelectric power.

A secretariat of 39 professional and support staff carried out the policies, decisions, and wishes of the Commission in 1997.

The Delaware River Basin

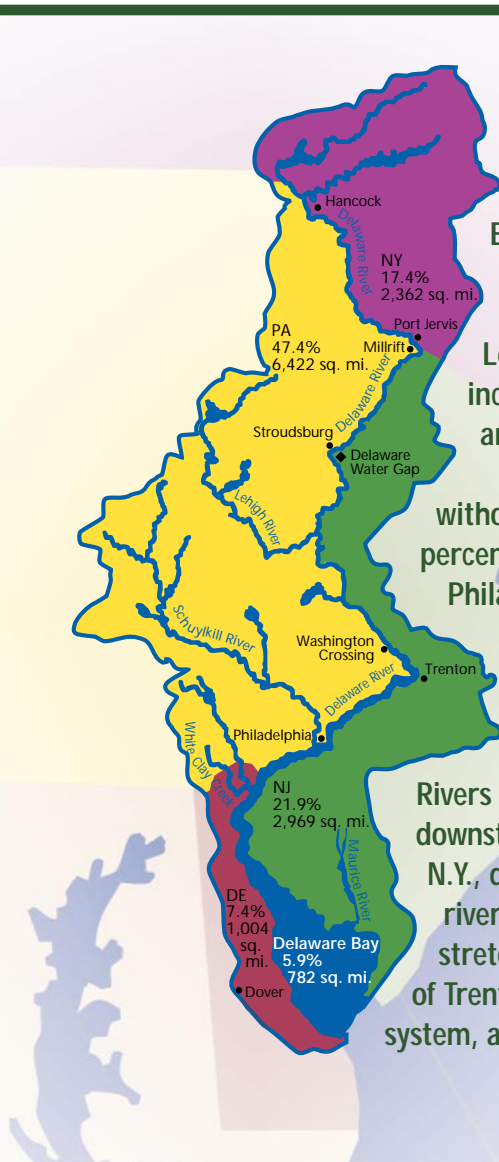
Vital Resource to Four States

The mainstream Delaware River extends 330 miles from the confluence of its East and West branches near Hancock, N.Y., to the mouth of the Delaware Bay. Its riparian states are Delaware, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania.

The river is fed by 216 tributaries, the largest being the Schuylkill and Lehigh Rivers in Pennsylvania. In all, the Basin takes in 13,539 square miles, including the 782 square-mile Delaware Bay, which lies roughly half in New Jersey and half in Delaware.

The basin is the major source of water supply to communities both within and without its boundaries. Three of the many Basin reservoirs provide more than 50 percent of New York City’s water needs, for example. Others supply water to the Philadelphia suburbs and many other towns and cities. In addition, the Basin includes the thousands of ground-water wells throughout the region that are the major—often sole—water sources for both communities and businesses.

Two reaches of the Delaware River and the Maurice River in New Jersey, a Delaware River tributary, have been included in the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The first section of the Scenic Delaware extends 73 miles from Hancock, N.Y., downstream to the Delaware Water Gap near Stroudsburg, Pa. Combined, the two river corridors take in 124,929 acres. Another reach of the Delaware, a 54-mile stretch linking the Delaware Water Gap and Washington Crossing, Pa., just upstream of Trenton, N.J., has been studied and recommended for possible inclusion in the system, as has White Clay Creek, which flows from Pennsylvania into Delaware.



The Commission 1997

Pennsylvania



Gov. Tom Ridge
Chair



Irene B. Brooks
Alternate

New York



Gov. George E. Pataki
Vice Chair



N.G. Kaul
Alternate

New Jersey



Gov. Christine Todd Whitman
Second Vice Chair



Robert C. Shinn, Jr.
Alternate

Delaware



Gov. Thomas R. Carper
Member



Christophe A.G. Tulou
Alternate

United States



Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt
Member



Vincent P. D'Anna
Alternate

Second/Third Alternates and Advisors

Pennsylvania

Stephen A. Runkle
Second Alternate

Kumar Kishinchand
Advisor

New York

John L. Middelkoop
Second Alternate

Warren T. Lavery
Third Alternate

Joel A. Miele, Sr.
Advisor

New Jersey

Steven P. Nieswand
Second Alternate

Delaware

Gerard L. Esposito
Second Alternate

United States

Lt. Col. Robert B. Keyser
Advisor

NEW OFFICERS ELECTED

The Rotation Continues

The Commission elected Pennsylvania Gov. Thomas R. Ridge as its Chair for the 1997 fiscal year at the June 25, 1997, meeting. Also elected were New York Gov. George E. Pataki as Vice Chair and New Jersey Gov. Christine Todd Whitman as Second Vice Chair.

Delaware Gov. Thomas R. Carper, former Chair, and U.S. Secretary of the Interior, Bruce Babbitt, former Vice Chair, continue as Commission members.

The annual election of officers has historically been based on a rotation of the five signatory parties to the Commission.

OUR VISION, OUR MISSION, AND OUR CORE VALUES

The DRBC Examines and Reaffirms Its Role

No organization or individual can exist for 35 years or more without stopping once in awhile to examine where it has been and where it should be going. The DRBC is no exception.

In 1995, as the Commission approached its 35th birthday, it began a process intended to examine its very reason for being, how well it had responded to its mandates over the years, how it related to its various constituencies, and what it might do to restate—and, if necessary, reorient—its vision, its mission, and its core values. The process, which continued for over two years, was called a retreat, though the retreat itself, a gathering of staff, Commissioners, and other interested parties at an off-site location where they engaged in intense debate and discussion, actually consumed little of the time.

The retreat process began in December 1995 with a two-day meeting between Commissioners and staff. The purpose was to promote discussion and reach consensus on perceived DRBC problems and issues, objectives, and possible actions. The process continued through 1996 through one-on-one interviews with 19 key constituents, conducted by an outside consultant. The interviewees were asked five key questions dealing with services, functions and responsibilities, and possible changes to the DRBC.

In 1997, the process reached a far wider audience seeking a still broader consensus. In April, the Commission mailed 2,083 questionnaires to a broad range of individuals and groups. The four-part survey sought opinions concerning the DRBC's performance relating to the terms of the Compact, opinions about the effectiveness of current

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Charting the Future: The DRBC Vision and Mission Statements

Preamble

The Delaware River Basin Commission was formed in 1961 by the signatory parties to the Delaware River Basin Compact (Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and the United States) to share the responsibility of managing the water resources of the Basin. Since its formation, the Commission has provided leadership in restoring the Delaware River and protecting water quality, resolving interstate water disputes without costly litigation, allocating and conserving water, managing river flow, and providing numerous

other services to the signatory parties. The success of the past serves as a promise for the future as the Commission and the region move into the 21st century. In implementing the Compact, we will be guided by our Vision, Mission, and Core Values.

Vision of the Delaware River Basin Commission

The Commission will be the leader in protecting, enhancing, and developing the water resources of the Delaware River Basin for present and future generations. In performing this leadership role, the Commission will serve as a

policymaker, regulator, planner, manager, and mediator on behalf of the Signatories to the Delaware River Basin Compact and the citizens of the Basin.

Mission

We will:

- Provide comprehensive watershed management.
- Act as stewards of the Basin's water resources particularly with respect to:
 - Surface water quality, including both point and nonpoint sources of pollution;
 - Ground and surface water quantity, including water

demands, water withdrawals, water allocations, water conservation, and protected areas;

- Drought management; and
- In-stream flow management.

- Promote effective interagency coordination to prevent duplication of efforts.

- Seek increased public involvement by:

- Serving primarily Basin-wide and interstate interests, and national, statewide, regional, and local watershed interests, as the need arises;
- Resolving interstate disputes through mediation;

- Regularly updating the Comprehensive Plan;
- Adopting and implementing policies to manage the Basin's water resources in an integrated, planned fashion;
- Integrating environmental and economic needs;
- Basing decisions on sound science; and
- Providing meetings, conferences, seminars, and other opportunities for public education, information exchange, involvement, and resolution of issues.

Core Values

We believe in:

- Serving the public.
- Treating everyone with fairness and respect.
- Acting in an open, honest, and professional manner.
- Listening and responding to our constituents.
- Encouraging innovative, creative solutions to water management problems.
- Improving our expertise.
- Enjoying and respecting the magnificent resource that is the watershed of the Delaware River.

DRBC activities, reactions to a series of statements about the DRBC, and comments on future activities.

The response rate was gratifying. Commission staff received 302 completed questionnaires, or 14.4 percent of those mailed. For so complex and subjective a survey, such a return rate is considered good and is itself an indication of the high profile the DRBC has among its constituents. The survey resulted in a staff-written report, which was published in August 1997 and made available to the public. But the report was not the end of the process; rather, it was the beginning of renewal. Based on the report, the Commissioners decided that the DRBC needed to analyze and define its unique role and to devise vision and mission statements as well as an action plan to implement the now nearly three-year-old retreat process. Thus in the fall of 1997 the Commission began a “niche” selection process to define activities that the DRBC could perform better than any other organization.

The process concluded that the DRBC should serve primarily Basin-wide and interstate interests, as well as national, statewide, regional, and local watershed interests as the need arises. The DRBC should also serve as the steward of the Basin’s water resources. The Commissioners will use the niche selection process as the basis for developing an action plan for overall directions of the Commission, including staffing and funding needs. And the niche selections also provided the basis for the Commission’s vision and mission statements presented in “Charting the Future,” the final version of which was adopted in December 1997.

OUR SECRETARIAT: EVOLVING COMPETENCE

Promotions, Additions, Transfers, Honors

THOMAS L. BRAND was named head of the Commission’s Project Review Branch. Mr. Brand, a professional engineer, joined the Project Review staff in February 1989. He holds a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering from the University of Delaware and a bachelor’s degree in fine arts from the University of the Arts.

ROBERT L. LIMBECK, a thirteen-year veteran of the Commission and formerly a water resources analyst, was appointed environmental scientist in the Water Quality Planning and Evaluation section of the Planning Branch. A native of Morrisville, Pa., and now a resident of Pottstown, Pa., Mr. Limbeck holds a bachelor of science degree in biology from Lafayette College, Easton, Pa., and a master’s degree in zoology from the University of Arkansas.

MARGARET A. LEBO joined the Commission staff as Planning Branch secretary. She previously was employed for 16 years by BetzDearborn Water Management Group of Horsham, Pa. Ms. Lebo resides in Levittown, Pa. where she is active in area charitable events. She replaces Pauline Ditmars, who retired after 17 years with the Commission.

EDWARD D. SANTORO joined the Commission as the Basin’s monitoring coordinator, a position created as a component of the Delaware Estuary Program’s Management Plan. Mr. Santoro previously was a senior environmental scientist and associate with William F. Cosulich Associates P.C., of Woodbury, N.Y. Prior to that he served as president of Sci Con Associates of Lakewood, N.J., and from 1981 to 1986 was a senior environmental scientist with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region II. He holds a bachelor of science degree in biology from Montclair State College and a master’s degree in marine and environmental science from C.W. Post Center of Long Island University.

CHIHSHENG (JASON) TSAI is the Commission’s new water resources engineer/modeler. Mr. Chihsheng is a Ph.D candidate in civil and environmental engineering at Rutgers University, where he earned a master’s degree in the same field. He also holds a master of science degree in power mechanical engineering from Tsinghua National University, HsinChu, Taiwan. He came to the Commission after serving an internship with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

Veteran staffer **WARREN R. HUFF** was named supervisor of computer operations, a newly created position in the Operations Branch. Mr. Huff holds a degree in computer science from Beaver College. He joined the Commission’s Water Quality Branch (now the Planning Branch) in 1967 as a technician.

JEFFREY FEATHERSTONE, the Commission’s policy analyst, has received a “Best Paper” award from the American Water Works Association for an article he wrote on water conservation.

KARL S. HEINICKE was named data manager for the Regional Information Management Service (RIMS), a computer web site that is an outgrowth of the Delaware Estuary Program. Mr. Heinicke, a graduate of Syracuse University, joined the Commission in 1988 as a geological technician.

TODD W. KRATZER, a water resources engineer in the DRBC’s Planning Branch, has been certified by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as a professional engineer. Mr. Kratzer, who holds a bachelor of science

DRBC Secretariat 1997

with phone extensions and e-mail ID

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Gerald M. Hansler

Conservation has become an integral component of the Commission's strategy to manage water supplies in the four-state Basin.

degree in environmental resource management and a master's degree in environmental pollution control, both from Penn State, joined the Commission in 1987.

THOMAS J. FIKSLIN, Ph.D., director of the Commission's Estuary Toxics Management Program, was a speaker at the seventh annual meeting of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry in Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

COMMISSION STAFFER WINS AWARD

Conservation Ideas Gain Credibility Boost

In June 1997, policy analyst Jeffrey P. Featherstone received a "Best Paper" award at the American Water Works Association conference in Atlanta, Ga., for his article on conservation.

Published in the January 1996 edition of the *AWWA Journal*, the article explained how conservation has become an integral component of the Commission's strategy to manage water supplies in the four-state Basin. It also detailed the benefits of such a program, including cost savings, improved drought preparedness, and enhanced environmental protection.

Mr. Featherstone served as the first chair of the AWWA's Water Conservation Division. He chaired the AWWA's Water Conservation Standing and Working Committees from 1993 through 1996. Under his leadership, the AWWA's conservation group grew from about 80 members to 200 members. Mr. Featherstone remains active in the AWWA, serving on its Technical and Educational Council, which coordinates the activities of the organization's eight divisions and sets policy for technical and educational programs.

Mr. Featherstone joined the Commission in 1982. He has had a lead role in the adoption of water conservation regulations pertaining to source and service metering, water-saving performance standards for plumbing fixtures and fittings, and water pricing rate structures that encourage reduced water use. He has also worked with other organizations in sponsoring seminars on ways to reduce water use in the industrial and commercial sectors and workshops on selected water conservation topics.

DRBC STAFFER INVITED TO AMSTERDAM

Speaks at Environmental Conclave

Thomas J. Fikslin, director of the Commission's Estuary Toxics Management Program, was invited to speak at the seventh annual meeting of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry in Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

The theme of the meeting, held in April 1997, was "Prospects for the European Environment Beyond 2000."

Dr. Fikslin presented two papers entitled *Calibration/Validation of an Estuary Model for Chronic Toxicity* and *Toxic Pollutant Management in an Interstate River Basin*.

Dr. Fikslin came to the Commission in March 1989 on loan from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The transfer was facilitated under the Intergovernmental Personnel Act, which permits interagency transfers of state and federal employees. He became a full-time Commission employee in April 1993.

The many canals of Amsterdam that encircle the center of the city and bind it both to the sea and to the Amstel River provided a suitable backdrop for DRBC staffer Tom Fikslin's presentation on river management issues.

